

ADOPTED AS REVISED

RESOLUTION

1 RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges Congress to:

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3 (1) Amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) by:

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5 (a) ~~eliminating~~ narrowing the current threshold language under which a lobbying
6 firm or organization need not register under the LDA unless it employs a person
7 whose lobbying activities constitute twenty percent or more of the time that he
8 or she spends in working for a particular client during a quarterly period,
9 provided that Congress should establish reasonable threshold limitations on the
10 obligation to list any particular individual as a federally registered lobbyist,
11 including measures designed to avoid imposing undue financial burdens on
12 small entities;

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14 (b) requiring LDA registrants and their clients to disclose in quarterly reports the
15 lobbying support activities in which they have engaged, as well as the lobbying
16 support activities performed by firms that they have retained, including strategy,
17 polling, coalition building, and public relations activities;

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19 (c) requiring on quarterly reports the identification of (i) individuals principally
20 involved in planning, directing, or coordinating lobbying support activities, as
21 well as (ii) individuals with any level of involvement in such activities who have
22 recently served as high-ranking federal officials; and

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24 (d) requiring LDA registrants to disclose on quarterly reports all congressional
25 offices, congressional committees, and federal agencies and offices contacted by
26 lobbyists employed by those registrants.

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28 (2) Provide that a federally registered lobbyist may not:

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30 (a) lobby a member of Congress for whom he or she has engaged in campaign
31 fundraising during the past two years;

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33 (b) engage in campaign fundraising for a member of Congress whom he or she
34 has lobbied during the past two years;

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36 (c) make or solicit financial contributions to the reelection campaign of a
37 member of Congress whom the lobbyist has been retained to lobby for an
38 earmark or other narrow financial benefit; or

39 (d) enter into a contingent fee contract with a client to lobby for an earmark or
40 other narrow financial benefit for that client.

41 (3) Transfer authority to enforce the LDA to a suitable administrative authority and
42 empower that agency to utilize appropriate tools such as rulemaking, investigation, and
43 imposition of civil or administrative penalties.

DELETIONS STRUCK THROUGH; ADDITIONS UNDERLINED